

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment claims 2-8 and 11 will remain pending in the above-identified application with claims 2-8 previously being indicated as allowed and claim 11 being objected to.

The present amendment to the claims does not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed. In this respect claim 11 has been amended into an independent format by incorporating thereinto the limitations of claims 1 and 10. The Examiner previously indicated that claim 11 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, the objection to claim 11 should now be overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 102/103

Claims 1 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over any of Chien et al., Fahrenkug et al. or Schultink et al. Further, claims 1 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Raidel et al. Also, claims 1 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hermanson et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of each of these

rejections is respectfully requested based upon the following considerations.

Each of claims 1 and 9-10 have been cancelled in the present amendment. As such, each of the above rejections has been overcome, and withdrawal thereof is now appropriate.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in indicating that claims 2-8 are allowed. As noted above, based upon the amendment of claim 11 herein, it is submitted that this claim is also allowable at present.

**Additional Matters**

It is noted that on even date herewith, Applicants are filing an Information Disclosure Statement. The Examiner is respectfully requested to give proper consideration to the references being supplied.

**CONCLUSION**

Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that pending claims 2-8 and 11 are allowable at present.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

  
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